

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 279

By Floyd

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Mary Barker upon being named a Diamond of Distinction by the American Lung Association.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mary Barker of Chattanooga is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, inspired by Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee, the American Lung Association in Tennessee is hosting its own special Diamond Celebration honoring women whose lives exemplify the spirit and intent of volunteerism; and

WHEREAS, just as Queen Elizabeth II has led her country for decades and continues to rule, Mary Barker has been an active volunteer and public servant for decades and continue to be a pillar of her community; and

WHEREAS, she has been a vital, caring, and giving part of her community and state for many years, and she remains an active force and doer of good deeds today; and

WHEREAS, Mary Barker has excelled in the world of academics, receiving her Ph.D from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville in English literature with a minor in philosophy. Previously, she received her master's degree in English literature and her bachelor's degree from the University of Chattanooga in education, and also graduated from the New England Conservatory of Music with honors in voice pedagogy and a minor in piano; and

WHEREAS, she has served with distinction as an English teacher and class sponsor at Chattanooga High School, as an English professor and Dean of Academic Affairs at Cleveland State Community College, as Vice President of Academic Affairs at Chattanooga State

Community College, and, most recently, as an adjunct professor at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, the Humanities Building at Cleveland State Community College is named in her honor as the "Mary T. Barker Humanities Building"; she has also received the Evans Award as Outstanding Teacher at Chattanooga High School and was inducted into the Alpha Society at the University of Chattanooga for Academic Achievement; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Barker is also known for her community service to Chattanooga's musical culture; from 1970-1986, she served as the writer of program notes for the Chattanooga Symphony Concerts and, from 1981 to 1986, she was a member of the Board for the Tennessee Humanities Council, serving as the chair from 1985-1986. She has also been a member and chair of the Board of Choral Arts Society; and

WHEREAS, she is a part of the Chattanooga Symphony and Opera Association and even worked to revive the Chattanooga Youth Orchestra, and she played a role on the search committee to find and hire the current Music Director; and

WHEREAS, Mary Barker is an active member of First Christian Church Disciples of Christ and continues to mentor students in their pursuit of higher education; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Barker is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Mary Barker upon being named a Diamond of Distinction by the American Lung Association for her "decades of doing" and salute her unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.